

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A Raman amplification method for pumping WDM signal light within an optical fiber, that uses pumping lights having two or more different pumping wavelengths, comprising steps of:

calculating a combination of optical power at said two or more different pumping wavelengths for said pumping lights in backward pumping so as to provide a substantially flat Raman gain within a predetermined signal wavelength band;

carrying out bidirectional pumping with at least part of said pumping lights wherein said bidirectional pumping includes said backward pumping, said carrying out step being performed after said calculating step; and

changing a respective distribution of pumping power to wavelength of said bidirectional pumping, wherein

said changing step is performed after said carrying out step, and

shorter wavelengths of said pumping lights are used for forward pumping so as to flatten a wavelength dependence of noise figure in the WDM signal band.

Claim 2 (Original) The Raman amplification method according to Claim 1, wherein:
a total optical power of said bidirectional pumping is not changed from the combination of optical power of said backward pumping calculated in said calculating step.

Claim 3 (Original) The Raman amplification method according to Claim 2, wherein:
all of said pumping lights are used for backward pumping and part of said pumping lights are used for forward pumping.